

TINGIDAE, NEIDIDAE (BERYTIDAE) AND PENTATOMIDAE OF THE NEVADA TEST SITE¹

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INTRODUCTION

This report is another in the continuing series of publications concerned with the results of ecological observations of fauna at the United States Atomic Energy Commission Nevada Test Site. These reports are concerned with investigations being conducted by the Department of Zoology and Entomology of Brigham Young University in cooperation with the United States Atomic Energy Commission (Allred, *et al.*, 1963). Most of the earlier reports refer to studies of vertebrate organisms and ground-inhabiting invertebrates. Some studies have been directed to parasitic arthropods. For a recent listing of these publications refer to Allred, *et al.* (1966).

During the last several years emphasis has been given to collecting arthropods from known species of plants. The principal objective is to show the association between species of animals and plants. Although main attention has been given to collections during the flowering season, follow-up visits have also been made at other times. We are aware of the collection of a specimen in what may be termed an accidental visit by an animal organism to a species of plant. Such an accidental type of relationship we have tried to differentiate by making collections from several specimens of the plant species at separate localities.

Collections were made mostly by insect net sweeping, vigorously shaking the plant into the open net, picking organisms by hand from the plant, or severely beating larger bushes or trees while a net was held beneath the plant. Some collections were made by use of ultraviolet and incandescent light sources in specially-designed traps. They were so designed that individual specimens of species could be taken separately. Such collections were made in plant communities greatly predominated by one or two plant species.

For convenience of reference, a map to our areas of study is included (Figure 1). These subdivisions of the test site are not to be interpreted as biotic units, but they are divisions of convenience so a more accurate identification of a locality may be made. (See Allred *et al.*, 1963, for a detailed description of biotic community subdivisions.) The designation of the title "Host Plant Species" in Table I is an arbitrary term of identity on our part. Actually the insect-plant association at the time of our collection may have been a single visit. Nevertheless, this was the association we found when a collection was made at a given date.

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The classification of the Tingidae and the Neididae (Berytidae) was done by Dr. Richard C. Froeschner, Curator, Department of Entomology, at the U. S. National Museum. The Pentatomidae were identified by the late Dr. Herbert Ruckes, Department of Entomology, at the American Museum of Natural History. This latter courtesy was most likely the last service he performed, for the following week after we received his taxonomic analysis of our specimens, we learned of his untimely death. We are indeed grateful to these men for their help in the identifications. Instrumental in making some of the collections were Clyde M. Pritchett and Jose M. Merino, graduate students at Brigham Young University. We were assisted in plant classification by Dr. Janice C. Beatley, Curator of the Nevada Test Site Herbarium, and a member of the test site ecology staff from the University of California at Los Angeles.

RESULTS

The data are arranged in tabular form. Table I comprises the Tingidae; Table II, the Neididae (Berytidae); and Table III, the Pentatomidae.

DISCUSSION

Tingidae

Corythucha mollicula was found on a variety of plant species. Nevertheless, the greatest numbers were collected from *Gutierrezia sarothrae* and *G. microcephala*. There seemed to be no general preference for the tingid *Corythucha sphaeralceae*. This seemed rather unusual in that during the summer of 1965 there was a rank growth of *Sphaeralcea* sp. over thousands of acres of desert land. Only one specimen of *Dictyla coloradensis* was collected, yet many *Astragalus lentiginosus* were sampled. *Gargaphia opacula* was the most generally distributed tingid with reference to geography and plant species association. If there were any plant preference, it may have been *Eurotia lanata*. It also had an extended seasonal occurrence, being taken in January, April, May, June, July, and August from *Eurotia lanata*. The only tingid which appeared to be host specific was *Teleonemia nigrina*, collected from *Verbena bracteata*. Drake and Ruhoff (1965) listed six host-plant species, not including sugar beets and snapdragon flowers. *Eriogonum* sp. and *Verbena* sp. are also host plants. Checked with data from the Drake-Ruhoff catalogue, all tingids listed in this report are new records for Nevada. The host-plant associations have significantly added to those already known.

Neididae (Berytidae)

As a group, the fragile hemipteran "Stilt Bugs" were widely distributed over the test site. The most abundant species was *Jalysus wickhami*. Although found on other species of plants, there was a preference for *Eriogonum inflatum*, *E. deflexum*, and *E. nodosum*. The 1965 collections were taken when these species were in flower.

Pronatocantha annulata showed no host-plant preference. It is interesting to note, however, that specimens of this species were not taken from any species of *Eriogonum*. Only three specimens of *Neides muticus* were collected. One was from *Gilia* sp., and two others from the pinyon-pine, *Pinus monophylla*.

Pentatomidae

For the most part those "Stink Bugs" taken before 1964 as listed in Table III were collected in pit-fall can traps. This type of collecting was done to obtain a sample of organisms whose habit in part or entirely confined them to ground surface travel and living in selected biotic communities. Such collecting would not reveal the specific plant association by an organism. This in part explains the blank space beneath the heading "Plant Host(s)." Subsequent to 1963 the collections of pentatomids were directed to taking specimens from the plants themselves. The most commonly encountered species, *Chlorochroa sayi*, has a wide geographic and seasonal distribution. When data from pit-fall can traps are used plus records from plants in flower, the seasonal distribution was February through September, except May and July. There are not sufficient data to indicate plant preference. One may generalize from the data at hand that this species of stink bug is more or less a lowland-basin inhabitant at the test site. On the other hand, *Thyanta rugulosa* appears to be relegated to slightly higher elevations. *Atriplex canescens* was the plant on which most specimens of this species were found. Although *Thyanta pallidovirens spinosa* was generally distributed about the test site, it did not evidence any specific plant species as a preferred host. Five additional species of pentatomids were collected, including a possible new species of *Dendrocoris*. Most collections such as *Brochymena sulcata* and *Bariasa euchlora* were taken only as single specimens. Five specimens of *Dendrocoris contaminatus* and three of *Prioriosoma podopioides* were collected.

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TABLE I. Collection Records for Tingidae Taken at the Nevada Test Site.

SPECIES	PLANT HOST(S)	LOCALITY	DATE	NO. OF SPECIMENS
<i>Corythucha mollicula</i> Osborn & Drake				
<i>Tetradymia glabrata</i>		17	1 Jy 65	1
<i>Artemisia</i> sp.		18	8 Jy 65	1
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>		5	16 Jy 65	28
<i>G. microcephala</i>		410	27 Jy 65	60
<i>Franseria acanthicarpa</i>		17		4
			5 Ag 65	3
<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i>		16		1
<i>Hymenoclea salsola</i>		5	12 Ag 65	2
<i>Franseria acanthicarpa</i>		16	19 Ag 65	8
		17	26 Ag 65	2
<i>Artemisia</i> sp.		18	8 Jy 65	7
?				1
<i>Sphaeralcea</i> sp.		12	11 Ag 65	2
		23	18 Ag 65	6
<i>Franseria acanthicarpa</i>		16	19 Ag 65	1
<i>Sphaeralcea</i> sp.		18	23 Ag 65	2
<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i>		17	11 Jn 65	1
<i>Eurotia lanata</i>		6	17 Ag 60	2
		4	23 Ja 61	1
<i>Eurotia lanata</i>		6	31 Ja 61	1
			24 Ap 61	1
			20 My 61	1
			21 Jn 61	8
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>				1
<i>Eurotia lanata</i>			24 Jy 61	2
<i>Purshia tridentata</i>		28	28 Jy 62	1
<i>Eurotia lanata</i>		16	11 Jn 65	9
<i>Machaeranthera leucanthemifolia</i>				2
<i>Chaenactis strevioides</i>		5	12 Jn 65	1
<i>Opuntia acanthicarpa</i>		14	14 Jn 65	1
<i>Coleogyne ramosissima</i>		16	11 Jn 65	1
<i>Acanthopappus shockleyi</i>		6	15 Jn 65	1
<i>Malacothrix glabrata</i>		401	18 Jn 65	1
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>			20 Jn 65	1
<i>Dalea polydenia</i>		16	19 Ag 65	1
<i>Verbena bracteata</i>		5	13 Jn 65	17
<i>Teleonemia nigra</i> Champion				183
			Total	183

TABLE II. Collection Records for Neididae (Berytidae) Taken at the Nevada Test Site

SPECIES	PLANT HOST(S)	LOCALITY	DATE	NO. OF SPECIMENS
<i>Neides muticus</i> (Say)		12	21 Jn 60	1
	<i>Gilia</i> sp.		15 Ag 65	1
	<i>Pinus monophylla</i>		25 Ag 65	1
	?	5	19 O 60	1
<i>Pronotacantha annulata</i> Uhler		28	21 Jy 62	3
	<i>Bromus rubens</i>		12 Jy 64	8
	<i>Pentstemon palmeri</i>		15 Jy 64	1
	<i>P. floridus</i>	12	11 Jn 65	1
	<i>Phacelia peirsoniana</i>			1
	<i>Sabia dorrii</i>			1
	<i>Malacothrix glabrata</i>	17	12 Jn 65	1
	<i>Castilleja</i> sp.	5	13 Jn 65	1
	<i>Oenothera californica</i>	17	16 Jn 65	1
	<i>Ribes</i> sp.	12	13 Ag 65	2
	<i>Elymus cinereus</i>	5	27 Jy 61	1
	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	16	31 Jy 61	1
	?	5	2 O 61	1
	<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>	5	11 Jn 64	1
	<i>Eriogonum inflatum</i>	6	19 Jy 65	1
	?	23		3
	?			8
	?			1
	<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i>	16	5 Ag 65	5
	<i>E. nodosum</i>	17		1
	<i>E. deflexum</i>	12	6 Ag 65	2
	?	17	8 Ag 65	1
	<i>Sphaeralcea</i> sp.	16	11 Ag 65	1
	<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i>			2
	?	23	12 Ag 65	1
	?	5		1
	<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i>	23	15 Ag 65	23
	<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i>	410	16 Ag 65	46
	<i>Eriogonum</i> sp.	16	17 Ag 65	1
	<i>E. deflexum</i>		19 Ag 65	4
			20 Ag 65	1
	<i>Eriogonum inflatum</i>	6		6
	<i>E. deflexum</i>	12	23 Ag 65	1
	<i>Chenopodium leptophyllum</i>	18		1
	<i>Eriogonum nodosum</i>			2
<i>Jalysus wickhami</i> Van Duzee				Total 139

TABLE III. Collection Records for Pentatomidae Taken at the Nevada Test Site

SPECIES	PLANT HOST(s)	LOCALITY	DATE	NO. OF SPECIMENS
<i>Chlorochroa sayi</i> Stål				
?		1	15 S 60	1
<i>Salsola kali</i>			19 S 60	1
?			16 F 61	1
<i>Astragalus</i> sp.		4	12 Mr 61	1
?		1	16 Mr 61	5
?			20 Mr 61	2
?			27 Mr 61	4
?			30 Mr 61	6
?			6 Ap 61	4
?			10 Ap 61	4
?			17 Ap 61	1
?			20 Ap 61	2
?			24 Ap 61	1
?			1 S 62	1
?			3 S 62	1
<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>			12 Jn 64	2
<i>Lepidium fremontii</i>		5	10 Jn 65	6
<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>		9	12 Jn 65	2
<i>Grayia spinosa</i>		5	18 Jn 65	4
<i>Purshia glandulosa</i>		401	20 Jn 65	1
<i>Chrysothamnus</i> sp.			7 Ag 65	1
<i>Chenopodium leptophyllum</i>			8 Ag 65	1
?			10 Ag 65	1
<i>Sphaeralcea</i> sp.			11 Ag 65	1
<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>		401	12 Ag 65	6
		5	13 Ag 65	4
			15 Ag 65	2
		23	18 Ag 65	1
		5		2
<i>Salsola kali</i>			19 Ag 65	1
?			20 Ag 65	1
<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>		16	25 Ag 65	1
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>			28 Ag 65	8
<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>		17	29 Ag 65	1
?		23		

?
Lycium sp.
Rumex salicifolius (S)
Artemisia tridentata
 ?
Purshia tridentata
Artemisia tridentata
 ?
 ?
Atriplex canescens
 ?
 ?
Atriplex canescens

Thyanta pallidovirens spinosa Ruckes

Larrea divaricata
 ?
Baileya pleniradiata
Rumex salicifolius
 ?
 ?
 ?
 ?
 ?

Banasa euchlora Stål
Brochymena sulcata Van Duzee
Dendrocoris sp. novum (?)
Dendrocoris contaminatus Uhler

Prionosoma podopoides Uhler

5	10 Mr	61	1
	14 Jn	61	1
16	27 Jy	61	1
12	23 Jy	62	1
28	25 Jy	62	1
16	28 Jy	62	1
5	31 Jy	62	1
18	20 Jy	65	1
17	22 Jy	65	1
23	5 Ag	65	3
	12 Ag	65	1
16	15 Ag	65	11
17	19 Ag	65	2
12	25 Ag	65	21
5	28 Ag	65	2
401	2 Ag	62	42
18	3 Ag	62	1
	13 Jy	64	1
12	19 Jy	64	2
	9 Ag	64	1
16	11 Ag	64	1
5	19 Jy	65	1
410	21 Jy	65	2
23	5 Ag	65	3
16	11 Ag	65	1
23	15 Ag	65	1
12	23 Ag	65	1
12	9 Ag	64	1
18	20 Jn	65	1
CE	20 Jn	65	1
16	3 Ag	61	3
5	19 Ag	65	1
1	28 Ag	65	3
1	19 Jn	61	1
1	26 Jn	61	1
?	21 Jy	61	1
Total			202

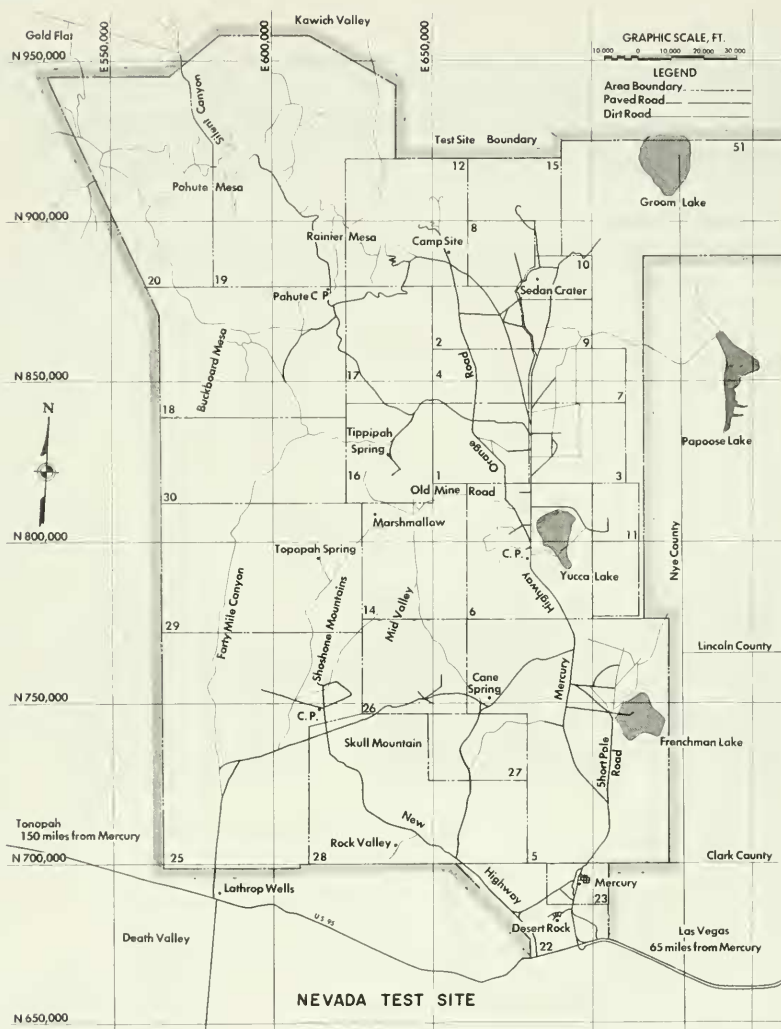


FIGURE I. Numbered collecting areas at the Nevada Test Site. These were delineated in 1965 for use of by the Brigham Young University ecology study group.